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Economic and Social Council

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Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council as a result of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, wherein it decided that the Council should decide on an appropriate work programme for the Committee for Development Policy,

Recalling its resolution 1998/39 of 30 July 1998 on the status of the least developed countries and decision 1999/290 of 26 October 1999 on consideration of the graduation of Maldives from the list of the least developed countries,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and 52/210 of 18 December 1997 on the report of the Committee for Development Planning,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its first session,[1] the views contained therein regarding the criteria for the identification of the least developed countries and the recognition that vulnerability should be explicitly taken into account in the identification criteria for the least developed countries;[2]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate an expert group meeting of members of the Committee for Development Policy in January/February 2000 in order to enable them to carry out the necessary diagnostic testing and simulations of the proposed criteria for the designation of least developed country status, in particular the economic vulnerability index (EVI), as contained in annex II of the report of the Committee, and to report to the Committee at its second session, in April 2000;

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 13* (E/1999/33).
[2] Ibid., para. 117.

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3. *Requests* the expert group to review and analyse the format and content of the "vulnerability profiles" developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as identified in chapter III, section F, of the report of the Committee;

4. *Requests*, in this context, the Committee for Development Policy to continue its dialogue with other international organizations working on vulnerability issues, and encourages these organizations to communicate their views on the proposed economic vulnerability index to the Committee;

5. *Also requests* the Committee for Development Policy, on the basis of the report of the expert group, to recommend, as appropriate, revised criteria for the identification of the least developed countries for the consideration of the Council as soon as possible, but no later than its substantive session of 2000, so that the review and decision on the list of the least developed countries can be completed by the end of 2000;

6. *Requests* the Committee for Development Policy to include in its report to be submitted to the Council in 2000 its views on the theme for the high-level segment of the Council in 2000, namely "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy";

7. *Further requests* the Committee for Development Policy, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/__, [A/C.2/54/L.63] to collaborate in the preparation of a draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium.